

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.       An isolated DNA comprising:
  - 2           (a)       a nucleic acid sequence that encodes a polypeptide with the ability to co-  
3 stimulate a T cell, wherein the nucleic acid sequence hybridizes under stringent conditions to  
4 the complement of a sequence that encodes a polypeptide with an amino acid sequence with  
5 SEQ ID NO:5; or  
6           (b)       the complement of the nucleic acid sequence.
- 1           2.       The DNA of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encodes a  
2 polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence with SEQ ID NO:5.
- 1           3.       The DNA of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid sequence has a sequence of  
2 SEQ ID NO:6.
- 1           4.       An isolated co-stimulatory polypeptide encoded by the DNA of claim 1.
- 1           5.       The isolated polypeptide of claim 4, wherein the polypeptide comprises an  
2 amino acid sequence of amino acid residue 31 to amino acid residue 282 of SEQ ID NO:5, or  
3 said amino acid sequence but with one or more conservative substitutions.
- 1           6.       The isolated polypeptide of claim 5, wherein the polypeptide comprises an  
2 amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5, or said amino acid sequence but with one or more  
3 conservative substitutions.
- 1           7.       A vector comprising the DNA of claim 1.
- 1           8.       The vector of claim 7, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is operably  
2 linked to a regulatory element which allows expression of said nucleic acid sequence in a  
3 cell.
- 1           9.       A cell comprising the vector of claim 7.
- 1           10.      A method of co-stimulating a T cell, the method comprising contacting the T  
2 cell with the polypeptide of claim 4.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the contacting comprises culturing the  
2 polypeptide with the T cell *in vitro*.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the T cell is in a mammal.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the contacting comprises administering the  
2 polypeptide to the mammal.

1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein the contacting comprises administering a  
2 nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide to the mammal.

1 15. The method of claim 12, comprising:

2 (a) providing a recombinant cell which is the progeny of a cell obtained from the  
3 mammal and has been transfected or transformed *ex vivo* with a nucleic acid encoding the  
4 polypeptide so that the cell expresses the polypeptide; and

5 (b) administering the cell to the mammal.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the recombinant cell is an antigen presenting  
2 cell (APC) and expresses the polypeptide on its surface.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein, prior to the administering, the APC is  
2 pulsed with an antigen or an antigenic peptide.

1 18. The method of claim 15, wherein the cell obtained from the mammal is a  
2 tumor cell.

1 19. The method of claim 12, wherein the mammal is suspected of having an  
2 immunodeficiency disease.

1 20. A method of identifying a compound that inhibits an immune response, the  
2 method comprising:

3 (a) providing a test compound;

4 (b) culturing, together, the compound, the polypeptide of claim 4, a T cell, and a  
5 T cell activating stimulus; and

6 (c) determining whether the test compound inhibits the response of the T cell to  
7 the stimulus, as an indication that the test compound inhibits an immune response.

1           21.     The method of claim 20, wherein the stimulus is an antibody that binds to a T  
2 cell receptor or a CD3 polypeptide.

1           22.     The method of claim 20, wherein the stimulus is an alloantigen or an antigenic  
2 peptide bound to a major histocompatibility complex (MHC) molecule on the surface of an  
3 antigen presenting cell (APC).

1           23.     The method of claim 22, wherein the APC is transfected or transformed with a  
2 nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide and the polypeptide is expressed on the surface of the  
3 APC.

1           24.     A method of identifying a compound that enhances an immune response, the  
2 method comprising:

3           (a)     providing a test compound;

4           (b)     culturing, together, the compound, the polypeptide of claim 4, a T cell, and a  
5 T cell activating stimulus; and

6           (c)     determining whether the test compound enhances the response of the T cell to  
7 the antigen, as an indication that the test compound enhances an immune response.

1           25.     The method of claim 24, wherein the stimulus is an antibody that binds to a T  
2 cell receptor or a CD3 polypeptide.

1           26.     The method of claim 25, wherein the stimulus is an alloantigen or an antigenic  
2 peptide bound to a MHC molecule on the surface of an APC.

1           27.     The method of claim 26, wherein the APC is transfected or transformed with a  
2 nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide and the polypeptide is expressed on the surface of the  
3 APC.

1           28.     An antibody that binds specifically to the polypeptide of claim 4.

1           29.     The antibody of claim 28, wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

1           30.     The antibody of claim 28, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

1           31.    The antibody of claim 28, wherein the antibody binds to the polypeptide with  
2   SEQ ID NO:5.

1           32.    A cell comprising the vector of claim 8.

1           33.    A method of producing a polypeptide that co-stimulates a T cell, the method  
2   comprising culturing the cell of claim 32 and purifying the polypeptide from the culture.

1           34.    A fusion protein comprising a first domain joined to at least one additional  
2   domain, wherein the first domain comprises a polypeptide of claim 4.

1           35.    The fusion protein of claim 34, wherein the at least one additional domain  
2   comprises the constant region of an immunoglobulin heavy chain or a fragment thereof.

1           36.    A nucleic acid molecule encoding the fusion protein of claim 35.

1           37.    A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 36.

1           38.    The vector of claim 37, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is operably linked  
2   to a regulatory element which allows expression of the nucleic acid molecule in a cell.

1           39.    A cell comprising the vector of claim 38.

1           40.    A method of producing a fusion protein, the method comprising culturing the  
2   cell of claim 39 and purifying the fusion protein from the culture.

1           41.    A method of co-stimulating a T cell, the method comprising contacting the T  
2   cell with:

3           (a) a first co-stimulatory polypeptide selected from the group consisting of  
4   (i) B7-H1, (ii) B7-H2, (iii) B7-H3, (iv) B7-H4, (v) a functional fragment of any of (i) - (iv),  
5   and (vi) any of (i) - (v) but with one or more conservative substitutions; and

6           (b) one or more additional co-stimulatory polypeptides selected from the group  
7   consisting of (vi) B7-1, (vii) B7-2, (viii) B7-H1, (ix) B7-H2, (x) B7-H3, (xi) B7-H4, (xii) a  
8   functional fragment of any of (vi) - (xi), and (xii) any of (vi) - (xii) but with one or more  
9   conservative substitutions.

1           42.     The method of claim 41, wherein the contacting comprises culturing the first  
2 co-stimulatory polypeptide and the one or more additional co-stimulatory polypeptides with  
3 the T cell *in vitro*.

1           43.     The method of claim 41, wherein the T cell is in a mammal.

1           44.     The method of claim 43, wherein the contacting comprises administering the  
2 first co-stimulatory polypeptide and the one or more additional co-stimulatory polypeptides  
3 to the mammal.

1           45.     The method of claim 43, wherein the contacting comprises administering one  
2 or more nucleic acids encoding the first co-stimulatory polypeptide and the one more  
3 additional co-stimulatory polypeptides to the mammal.

1           46.     The method of claim 43, comprising:

2           (a)     providing a recombinant cell which is the progeny of a cell obtained from the  
3 mammal and which has been transfected or transformed *ex vivo* with one or more nucleic  
4 acids encoding the first co-stimulatory polypeptide and the one or more additional  
5 polypeptides so that the cell expresses the first co-stimulatory polypeptide and the one or  
6 more additional co-stimulatory polypeptides; and

7           (b)     administering the cell to the mammal.

1           47.     The method of claim 43, comprising;

2           (a)     providing a first recombinant cell which is the progeny of a cell obtained from the  
3 mammal and which has been transfected or transformed *ex vivo* with a nucleic acid encoding  
4 the first co-stimulatory polypeptide;

5           (b)     providing one or more additional recombinant cells each of which is the progeny  
6 of a cell obtained from the mammal and each of which has been transfected or transformed  
7 *ex vivo* with a nucleic acid encoding one of the additional one or more co-stimulatory  
8 polypeptides; and

9           (c)     administering the first cell and the one or more additional cells to the mammal.

1           48.     The method of claim 46, wherein the recombinant cell is an antigen presenting  
2 cell (APC) and expresses the first co-stimulatory polypeptide and the one or more additional  
3 co-stimulatory polypeptides on its surface.

1           49.     The method of claim 48, wherein, prior to the administering, the APC is  
2     pulsed with an antigen or an antigenic peptide.

1            50.        The method of claim 46, wherein the cell obtained from the mammal is a  
2    tumor cell.

1            51.     The method of claim 43, wherein the mammal is suspected of having an  
2     immunodeficiency disease.

1            52.    The method of claim 10, wherein the polypeptide co-stimulates the production  
2    of interferon- $\gamma$  by the T cell.

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